

THE TRUTH ABOUT CANCER—Charles S. Cameron, M.D., Medical and Scientific Director, American Cancer Society. Prentice-Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, 1956. 268 pages, \$4.95.

Written by the Medical and Scientific Director of the American Cancer Society, this book represents a comprehensive outline of practical and useful information for the layman with clarity and facility not equaled in any other similar attempt to the knowledge of the reviewer. While the primary purpose of the book is for the relatively uninformed or in many instances, misinformed nonprofessional individual, there are some nonmedical scientists engaged in certain areas of research related to cancer who might benefit from the general orientation provided by this book. Much of the content also would be helpful to physicians who have occasion to prepare discussions on cancer for nonprofessional audiences.

There are admirable discussions of such phases as normal and abnormal growth and the spread of cancer, a realistic appraisal of heredity in cancer, explanations of common misconceptions as well as an insight into the phenomenon of quackery and a review of the field of cancer research up to the present time. The latter part of the volume presents information on cancer of specific systems and anatomical areas as well as the lymphomas and a discussion of cancer in children.

In general the author tempers the harsh facts of biologic reality with some degree of euphoria, which the reviewer considers as justifiable in the area of public education as compared to the more realistic approach to a medical or scientific audience. In the introductory chapter, however Dr. Cameron informs his readers with commendable honesty that "early diagnosis" is not synonymous with "curable cancer," and proceeds to offer a lucid explanation of unpredictable behavior of many cancers and the incurable nature of some because of their biologic characteristics. However in some areas he offers figures of potential curability for certain types of cancer which seem unjustifiable in the light of present knowledge, as for example a potential curability of carcinoma of the breast of almost 75 per cent, of the rectum to a level exceeding 70 per cent, and a potential curability with present technics, of bronchogenic cancer of 50 per cent. Whether such unrealistic figures of potential curability are justifiable for public information may be a matter of debate.

The format of the book is excellent, there are numerous schematic figures and graphs which are understandable to laymen of average intelligence, and some photographs which are well chosen and educational of the topics under discussion without being frightening even to the most fastidious cancerphobe. In particular a sequence of colored photographs is especially effective.

In summary the best comment is a repetition of the belief expressed above that this is by far the best source of information on cancer yet to be offered to the public and the volume deserves enthusiastic recommendation by the medical profession to those who want information about neoplastic disease. For interested physicians a perusal of the book in respect to technics of providing information for nonprofessional individuals is well worthwhile.

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HAND SURGERY—Surgery in World War II—Medical Department, U. S. Army—Edited by Sterling Bunnell, M.D., Office of the Surgeon General, Department of Army, Washington, D. C., 1955. Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington, 25, D. C. 447 pages, \$3.75.

This text is basically documentary.

In the edition are nine chapters, each written by the Medical Officer in charge of Hand Surgery in the respective

general hospitals designated as Centers in the United States. There is, therefore, some repetition of information, but each with a different slant from the individual contributor and this feature is valuable.

The Mediterranean and European theaters of operation are each represented by a chapter, and the experiences in a debarcation hospital, as well as the overall picture in the zone of interior, are likewise presented for completeness.

The most valuable part of the book is Chapter II, where, in 75 pages, conclusions in the care of injured hands are presented in a concise, superb manner by Sterling Bunnell, the editor and guiding light of the entire program.

The book is for all surgeons seriously interested in surgery of the hand.

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THE EXPRESSION OF THE EMOTIONS IN MAN AND ANIMALS—Charles Darwin, M.A., F.R.S. Philosophical Library, New York, 1955. 372 pages, \$6.00.

This so-called "new edition" is essentially a reissue of the original text plus a few additional photographs showing various animal and human communicative patterns. The original work which appeared in 1872 stressed Darwin's notions that expressive facial functions were derived from the practical functions of the muscles. Darwin believed that some expressive movements stemmed directly from original practical movements, and also that opposite emotional reactions yielded opposite facial movements.

He reports studies in the expression of animals, infants, mentally ill persons, and the paintings as shown in various culture groups. Most of the emotional patterns such as weeping, depression, elation, reflection, hatred, surprise, etc., come in for separate chapters and the book contains much interesting material for physicians which could stimulate their evaluation of patients' feelings as demonstrated by expression. It must be stressed, however, that since Darwin's text, numerous other workers have studied these problems and the general conclusion of most psychologists is that aside from smiles, no other facial posture can be considered diagnostic of any specific emotion.

As a background book this volume has already made its place in the history of emotional psychology and certainly the publisher has contributed to a new generation in making it easily and readily available although at a stiff price for a reprint. The additional material in the preface and the extra pictures are not much of a contribution, and one wishes that a really good introduction covering recent work in this field could have been appended.

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RHEUMATOID ARTHRITIS AND PSORIASIS VULGARIS—Internal and Cutaneous Manifestations of Permanent Endoparasitism in the Homo Sapiens. Their Common Etiology, Pathogenesis, and Specific Vaccine Therapy—Tibor Benedek, M.D., Assistant Clinical Professor of Dermatology and Syphilology, Stritch School of Medicine, Loyola University. Chicago Medical Book Company, Jackson and Honore Streets, Chicago 12, Ill., 1955; 308 pages, \$12.00. April 11, 1956.

The author attempts to explain the etiology of psoriasis and psoriatic arthritis on the basis of a bacterial organism called the bacillus endoparasiticus Benedek 1927. The evidence presented is not conclusive or convincing. The author, on page 32 described an "x" or unknown factor which controls the release of the "endoparasites" into the view that psoriasis is of unknown etiology. The author has presented an elaborate review of his theory as to the cause of psoriasis. There is much excessive material which diverts the attention of the reader from the main theme. The author's findings are in marked divergence from the evidences of numerous studies by many investigators. This book is not recommended for general use.